

Historic Building Appraisal

Fuk Wah Study Hall

No. 121 Shui Tsiu San Tsuen, Shap Pat Heung, Yuen Long

Shui Tsiu San Tsuen (水蕉新村) is a Hakka (客家) village in Shap Pat Heung (十八鄉) of Yuen Long occupied by the Wongs (黃), the Yeungs (楊), the Cheungs (張), the Chings (程) and the Lams (林). The Wongs and the Yeungs were tenant farmers working for the Tang (鄧) clan of Ping Shan (屏山). They settled in the village in the 17th century and followed by the others. The village was initially called Fuk Hing Wai (福慶圍) and an ancestral hall Fuk Hing Tong (福慶堂) was built by the five clans. The village has used the present name since the early 20th century. Fuk Wah Study Hall (福華書室) was set up by the village members in the mid-18th century for the education of the village children. The study hall provided with them the teaching of Chinese classics so that they could take part in the Imperial Civil Service Examination in order to gain official positions in the Qing (清) government.

**Historical
Interest**

Located in the eighth row of the nine rows of houses in the village, the study hall is connected to houses on either side. The Fuk Hing Tong is on its right. It is a Qing vernacular building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan of two bays. The open courtyard is in front of the hall. A side room and a chamber are on the left of the courtyard and the hall. A cockloft is at the side chamber. It is constructed of green bricks with its walls to support its pitched roofs of timber rafters, purlins and clay tiles. The walls are plastered and the floors cement-screeded. The name of the hall is engraved on a stone above the lintel of the recessed entrance. Wall frieze paintings of flowers, fruits and birds are under the eave of the entrance. A fascia board of flowers and birds is under the eave. Wall frieze paintings of curling flowers, landscape and calligraphy are at the main hall.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is a study hall of the villagers of Shui Tsiu San Tsuen to witness their history and education.

Rarity

It has some built heritage value.

**Built Heritage
Value**

The side room next to the open courtyard is in dilapidated condition. The authenticity is diminished.

Authenticity

It has group value with the ancestral halls, Chun Wah Study Hall and other historic buildings in the village.

Group Value

A teacher of the study hall was employed to teach in the study hall. The cockloft was used to accommodate the teacher. The study hall was replaced by the Chun Wah Study Hall since its operation in the early 20th century. The hall then provided classes of martial arts for the villagers. It was also used as a storeroom. It was a place for the villagers to deal with the village matters until a new building of the village committee was completed in 1986.

*Social Value,
& Local
Interest*